

In claim 15, line 1, please delete "any preceding claim" and replace with -- ~~claim 1~~ -- .

In claim 16, line 1, please delete "any preceding claim" and replace with -- ~~claim 1~~ -- .

In claim 17, line 1, please delete "any preceding claim" and replace with -- ~~claim 1~~ -- .

In claim 18, line 1, please delete "any preceding claim" and replace with -- ~~claim 1~~ -- .

In claim 21, line 1, please delete "~~or 20~~".

In claim 23, line 1, please delete "any of claims 19 to ~~22~~" and replace with --claim 19--.

In claim 24, line 1, please delete "any of claims 19 to 22" and replace with --claim 19--.

Please cancel claims ~~27 and 28~~.

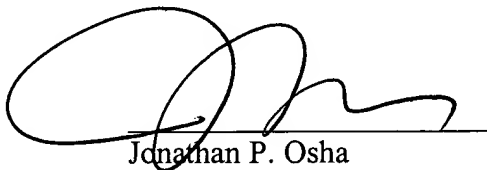
REMARKS

The claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and to correct antecedent basis errors. Full examination and favorable action are requested.

Please charge any fees, or make any credits, to Deposit Account No. 500-591,

Reference No. 11345.025001

Date: August 9, 2000



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